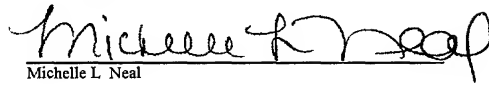


PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group		}	Certificate Under 37 C.F.R. 1.10
Art Unit:	Unknown	}	"EXPRESS MAIL" MAILING LABEL NUMBER
		}	EL360552242US
Attorney		}	DATE OF DEPOSIT <u>November 8, 2001</u>
Docket No.:	HER0049	}	I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PAPER OR FEE IS BEING
		}	DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SER-
Applicant:	Salah Djelouah	}	VICE "EXPRESS MAIL POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE"
		}	SERVICE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.10 ON THE DATE
Invention:	METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR	}	INDICATED ABOVE AND IS ADDRESSED TO THE ASSIS-
	RECOVERY OF A SLICK FLOATING	}	TANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS WASHINGTON, DC
	ON THE SURFACE OF A LIQUID	}	20231.
		}	on <u>November 8, 2001</u>
Serial No:	Unknown	}	
		}	Michelle L. Neal
Filed:	Herewith	}	
Examiner:	Unknown	}	

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box: Patent Application
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified application, please amend the application
as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On the first page, before the first paragraph, please insert the following title of the invention:

- -METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR RECOVERY OF A SLICK FLOATING ON THE
SURFACE OF A LIQUID- -

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1-7 and add new claim 8 as follows:

1. (Amended) Apparatus for recovery of the product forming a slick floating on the surface of the water such as an oil slick, characterized in that it comprises:

- a recovery head formed by an enclosure having in the upper part an inlet for the product to be recovered and in the lower part an outlet for the recovered product,
- a vortex generator which is formed by an agitator immersed in the enclosure and borne by the shaft of a motor and which creates in the enclosure a dynamic vortex which descends in the enclosure as far as its outlet,
- a floatation means which supports the enclosure so as to keep its inlet at the level of the slick to be recovered,
- a pipe connecting the outlet of the enclosure to a tank.

2. (Amended) Apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that the agitator is immersed at an adjustable height in the enclosure below the level of the floating slick.

3. (Amended) Apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that the enclosure is in the shape of a funnel following the flow lines of the vortex, the flared portion of the enclosure constituting the product inlet, whilst the tip of the cone constitutes the outlet connected to the discharge pipe.

4. (Amended) Apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that the discharge pipe is connected to a suction means.

5. (Amended) Apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, characterized by a control unit connected to the motor of the vortex generator and to the suction means in order to control these two means as a function in one another.

6. (Amended) Apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that the flotation means is formed by floats supporting the enclosure and the vortex generator.

7. (Amended) Apparatus as claimed in Claim 6, characterized in that the connection between the floats and the enclosure is adjustable in order to adjust the depth of immersion of the inlet of the enclosure as a function of the thickness of the slick of product to be recovered.

- -8. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 4, characterized by a control unit connected to the motor of the vortex generator and to the suction means in order to control these two means as a function in one another.- -

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

- -"Method and apparatus for recovery of a slick floating on the surface of a liquid"

Method and apparatus for recovery of the product forming a slick floating on the surface of the water such as an oil slick. The apparatus comprises a recovery head formed by an enclosure having in the upper part an inlet for the product to be recovered and in the lower part an outlet for the recovered product, as well as a vortex generator which creates in the enclosure a dynamic vortex which descends in the enclosure as far as its outlet; a flotation means which supports the enclosure

so as to keep its inlet at the level of the slick to be recovered; and a pipe connecting the outlet of the enclosure to a tank.- -

• • • R E M A R K S • • •

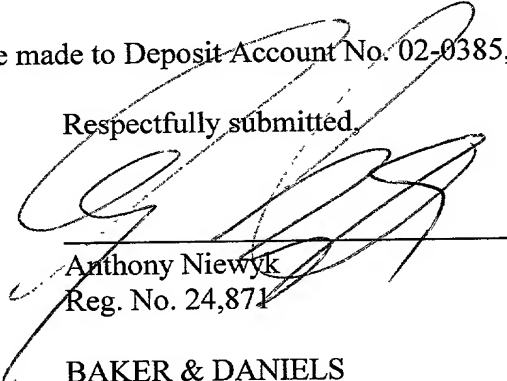
By the present Preliminary Amendment, claims and abstract have been revised to delete reference to figures. Claim 5 has been amended and new claim 8 has been added to delete the multiple dependency.

Care has been taken so as to avoid the addition of new matter in the claims and abstract.

Entry of the present Preliminary Amendment prior to the examination of the application is respectfully requested.

In the event applicants have overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, applicants hereby petition therefor and authorize that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 02-0385, Baker & Daniels.

Respectfully submitted,



Anthony Niewyk
Reg. No. 24,871

BAKER & DANIELS
111 East Wayne Street
Suite 800
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802
(219) 460-1661

AN/mln/205293

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Changes Made to Claims

Claims 1-7 have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) Apparatus for recovery of the product forming a slick floating on the surface of the water such as an oil slick, [characterised] characterized in that it comprises:

- a recovery head [(1)] formed by an enclosure [(2)] having in the upper part an inlet [(3)] for the product to be recovered and in the lower part [(4)] an outlet for the recovered product,
- a vortex generator which is formed by [a] an agitator [(9)] immersed in the enclosure and borne by the shaft [(8)] of a motor [(7)] and which creates in the enclosure a dynamic vortex [(V)] which descends in the enclosure [(2)] as far as its outlet [(4)],
- a floatation means [(5)] which supports the enclosure [(2)] so as to keep its inlet [(3)] at the level of the slick to be recovered [(8)],
- a pipe [(20)] connecting the outlet of the enclosure to a tank [(31)].

2. (Amended) Apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, [characterised] characterized in that the agitator [(9)] is immersed at an adjustable height in the enclosure below the level of the floating slick [(P)].

3. (Amended) Apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, [characterised] characterized in that the enclosure [(2)] is in the shape of a funnel following the flow lines of the vortex, the flared portion of the enclosure constituting the product inlet [(3)], whilst the tip of the cone constitutes the outlet [(4)] connected to the discharge pipe [(20)].

4. (Amended) Apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, [characterised] characterized in that the discharge pipe [(20)] is connected to a suction means [(30)].

5. (Amended) Apparatus as claimed in [any one of Claims 1 and 4] Claim 1, [characterised] characterized by a control unit connected to the motor [(7)] of the vortex generator [(7, 8, 9)] and to the suction means [(30)] in order to control these two means as a function in one another.

6. (Amended) Apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, [characterised] characterized in that the flotation means [(5)] is formed by floats supporting the enclosure [(2)] and the vortex generator [(7, 8, 9)].

7. (Amended) Apparatus as claimed in Claim 6, [characterised] characterized in that the connection [(10)] between the floats [(5)] and the enclosure [(2)] is adjustable in order to adjust the depth of immersion of the inlet [(3)] of the enclosure as a function of the thickness [(X)] of the slick of product to be recovered [(P)].

New Claim 8 has been added as follows:

- -8. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 4, characterized by a control unit connected to the motor of the vortex generator and to the suction means in order to control these two means as a function in one another.- -

Changes in the Abstract

The abstract has been amended as follows:

"Method and apparatus for recovery of a slick floating on the surface of a liquid"

Method and apparatus for recovery of the product forming a slick floating on the surface of the water such as an oil slick. The apparatus comprises

- [-] a recovery head [(1)] formed by an enclosure [(2)] having in the upper part an inlet [(3)] for the product to be recovered and in the lower part [(4)] an outlet for the recovered product, as well as a vortex generator which creates in the enclosure a dynamic vortex [(V)] which descends in the enclosure [(2)] as far as its outlet [(4)];
- [-] a flotation means [(5)] which supports the enclosure [(2)] so as to keep its inlet [(3)] at the level of the slick to be recovered[,]; and
- [-] a pipe [(20)] connecting the outlet of the enclosure to a tank [(31)].

[-Figure 4-]